

The Nikonos survival guide

by Peter Rowlands

When you change the film in your Nikonos V you could, if you are not careful, allow a few small drops of water to enter the camera.

Unless you rinse and dry your camera thoroughly there will be a small amount of water trapped just outside the main O ring seal. When you open the camera back, it is possible that this water can get past the O ring as the pressure on it is released and it sits looser in the O ring groove.

The solution is very simple but it isn't pointed out in the instruction manual so read on to survive.

If you open the back with the camera pointing lens down, there is a strong possibility that a small amount of water will drop into the camera just behind the frame counter window. The thin black cover plate which is held by four small Philips head screws is not sealed and the water can migrate behind the plate and onto the frame counter mechanism. As well as working the frame counter, this mechanism also includes the main power switch contacts so any salt



Tell tale signs of corrosion . If you open the back with the camera pointing down, there is a strong chance that water will drop into the camera



It is only when the inner body is removed that signs of corrosion can be seen just under the frame counter window.



The inner body of a Nikonos V is a very snug fit in the main outer body. This keeps the camera small but any slight amount of water getting into the camera will cause problems with the electronics and mechanics



Corrosion can clearly be seen around the frame counter assembly which also contains the main power contacts.

No!



Never remove a lens like this as water droplets can fall into the throat of the camera and get onto the shutter blades

No!



Opening a Nikonos V like this could allow water to drop into the camera around the frame counter assembly

water (remember rinse tank water is rarely fresh) in this area is potentially fatal. You may not notice it at first but once water gets into this area you have an accident waiting to happen.

The solution is simple. When changing the film, keep the lens pointing forward and open the back slowly or, to be absolutely sure, have the lens pointing upwards whilst opening the back. If you use the second method, the rewind film cassette could fall out of its retainer so be prepared!

The same problem can occur when changing lenses so never remove them with the camera on its back as drops of water could fall onto the shutter blades. Keep the camera either horizontal or upside down and remove the lens slowly.

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A basic rule of underwater photography!!



When rinsing your Nikonos V (or in this case Nikonos RS), do not take off the lens and rinse them separately....